

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut mezinárodních studií

PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE
(Posudek oponenta)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): **Michaela Smolíková**

Název práce: **Neokonzervatismus a jeho vliv na proměnu americké zahraničně-bezpečnostní strategie během prvního funkčního období George W. Bushe**

Oponoval (u externích oponentů uveďte též adresu a funkci v rámci instituce):

Doc. PhDr. Francis D. Raška, PhD.

1. OBSAH A CÍL PRÁCE (stručná informace o práci, formulace cíle): This B.A. dissertation aims to confirm the hypothesis that American neoconservatives played a very significant role in the transformation of American national security strategy after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. Neoconservative strategy became George W. Bush's official policy.

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.): In my opinion, this work is logical, well argued, and well researched. The literature consulted is excellent and balanced.

3. FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.): The presentation is superb, sources are cited properly, and all formal requirements are met, if not exceeded.

4. STRUČNÝ KOMENTÁŘ HODNOTITELE (celkový dojem z bakalářské práce, silné a slabé stránky, originalita myšlenek, naplnění cíle apod.):

Michaela Smolíková has written her B.A. dissertation on the influence of neoconservatism and neoconservative thought on the national security policy of President George W. Bush in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States. The treatise is divided into an Introduction, six main chapters, and a Conclusion. The appended bibliography is quite extensive and it is obvious that Michaela has consulted many different sources, including works by fellow students. She deserves to be commended.

In the Introduction, Michaela makes it clear that her work represents a compilation. The structure of the dissertation is elucidated and both American and Czech sources are consulted. Perhaps a more extensive literature review would be in order. In all, the Introduction serves its purpose.

Chapter 1 examines the history of neoconservatism. Of course, she delves into Leo Strauss and other intellectuals involved in the formulation of the neoconservative idea. Others mentioned include Allan Bloom, Irving Kristol, Norman Podhoretz, and Nathan Glazer. Michaela takes the reader up to the foundation of the Project for a New American Century, which would greatly influence Republican Party politics in the twenty-first century.

Chapter 2 discusses the early presidency of George W. Bush (from his inauguration until the declaration of the global war on terror). Obviously, 9/11 was the turning point in Bush's presidency and hardened his attitude. Michaela's grasp of the situation is impressive.

Chapter 3 deals with the American involvement in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom. The neoconservative influence is unquestionable and, with the fall of the Taliban regime, the Bush administration set its sights on Iraq. This chapter is well organized and, again, Michaela does a fine job analyzing the press debate at the time.

In Chapter 4, Michaela discusses the conceptualization of American national security policy following 9/11. She does so by analyzing documents and speeches. From the 2002 State of the Union Speech delivered by Bush and the President's speech at West Point, it is obvious that preemption and militarism would be two doctrines contained in the National Security Strategy of 2002. Indeed, combating terrorism and weapons of mass destruction were the key points in Bush's National Security Strategy. The role played by neoconservative thought and thinkers on Bush's new approach to national security policy is beyond doubt.

Chapter 5 analyzes the Second Iraq War begun in 2003 as Operation Iraqi Freedom. Though it was claimed that

Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction (and this was the pretext for going in), neoconservatives pushed for the invasion also because of the dictatorial nature of Saddam Hussein's regime and they used this argument to justify the invasion when it became clear that there were no weapons of mass destruction.

In Chapter 6, Michaela briefly explains the decline of neoconservative influence on the White House, which was due to mounting war casualties and growing public disaffection with the wars. The decline could be seen in personnel changes that occurred during Bush's second term, especially the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in 2006.

The Conclusion recapitulates the main points of the dissertation and Michaela argues that the waning of neoconservatism helped to pave the way for the resumption of multilateral approaches (such as diplomacy) to conflict resolution.

I am very pleased with this dissertation. Michaela has performed well and deserves to be rewarded with an **excellent** mark.

5. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):
1. Do you see any policy for the reemergence of neoconservatism in American national security policy given President Obama's unsatisfactory performance?
 2. Can one liken neoconservatism to Wilsonianism?

6. **DOPORUČENÍ / NEDOPORUČENÍ K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA**
(výborně, velmi dobře, dobře, nevyhověl): **VÝBORNĚ**

Datum: 6.6.2014

Podpis:

Pozn.: Hodnocení píše k jednotlivým bodům, pokud nepíšete v textovém editoru, použijte při nedostatku místa zadní stranu nebo příložený list. V hodnocení práce se pokuste oddělit ty její nedostatky, které jsou, podle vašeho mínění, obhajobou neodstranitelné (např. chybí kritické zhodnocení pramenů a literatury), od těch věcí, které student může dobrou obhajobou napravit; poměr těchto dvou položek berte prosím v úvahu při stanovení konečné známky.